

REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR

Submitted by the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee January 2004

It is the mission of the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee to provide support, advice and guidance to the government and citizens of the State of Alaska, in accordance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, to help reduce and prevent juvenile crime, while ensuring that Alaska's youth are provided meaningful opportunities to succeed.

AJJAC Listens to Alaska's Youth

The Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC) is the volunteer citizen advisory board for the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice. Its members are appointed by the Governor pursuant to the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. AJJAC's responsibilities include gathering input from youth in the state's juvenile justice system and submitting a report with juvenile justice recommendations annually to the Governor.

In order to carry out its responsibilities, AJJAC members conduct regular visits to youth residential and institutional facilities throughout the state. During those visits, AJJAC members meet in small informal focus groups with delinquent youth, their families, and the facility staff. These facility visits allow AJJAC members to see where Alaska's delinquent youth are housed, talk with the staff and family members who care for them, and learn from the youth themselves about their experiences and insights.

During the focus group discussions, delinquent youth talk with AJJAC members about how they became involved in the juvenile justice system, what could have helped them stay out of the system, and how they believe the system could work better. Their comments are surprisingly candid and insightful. Most of the delinquent youth, regardless of where they live in Alaska, say that they got into the juvenile justice system for one or more of the following reasons:

- ✓ **Lack of jobs and recreational opportunities,**
- ✓ **Lack of accountability for their behavior,**
- ✓ **Lack of parental supervision, and/or**
- ✓ **Use of drugs and alcohol.**

It would be an oversimplification to suggest that money could solve all of these problems. However, these problems do suggest a need for youth to spend more time with a range of caring and competent adults – including family members, teachers, employers, mentors, treatment professionals, and juvenile probation officers – and adult time often costs money.

Unfortunately, in a climate of state and federal budget cuts, support for youth programs is frequently reduced or eliminated. But the immediate savings from such cuts must be carefully balanced against the potential increased costs of delinquency in terms of law enforcement, incarceration, rehabilitation, and the long-term damage to victims, families and communities.

AJJAC believes that its focus group discussions support the need for Alaskans to invest both time and money in order to provide:

- More **prevention** activities for all youth;
- Earlier **intervention** with acting-out youth;
- More **substance abuse and mental health treatment** for youth in the community and in juvenile facilities; and
- More **intensive supervision by probation officers** for delinquent youth after they are released from juvenile facilities.

Therefore, AJJAC asks the Governor and all Alaskans to give serious consideration to the following juvenile justice recommendations:

AJJAC Recommendations

1. Substance abuse and mental health treatment.

Provide adequate resources for youth with substance abuse and mental health problems through the development of treatment programs in rural and urban Alaska. The need for outpatient and residential detoxification, substance abuse and mental health treatment is immediate.

2. Intensive community-based probation services.

Provide the Division of Juvenile Justice with the funding needed for probation field services to provide intensive community-based services for youth offenders and their families and victims.

3. Removal of non-offending youth from detention.

Modify Alaska statutes to prohibit secure holds of non-offending youth in adult jails, lockups and juvenile detention facilities, including protective custody and mental health cases under AS 47.30.705 and protective custody intoxication cases under AS 47.37.170. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) prohibits secure holds of these youth for reasons that include their safety, their timely and appropriate treatment, and the liability that facilities incur with these holds. Violations of the JJDP Act also jeopardize federal juvenile justice grant funding to Alaska.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP Act), as amended, was a federal reform measure designed to improve the states' juvenile justice systems. Its provisions include:

Federal Juvenile Justice Grant Funds for States

All states are eligible to apply for juvenile justice grant funds under the JJDP Act.

In State Fiscal Year 2003, Alaska received over **\$2.45 million** in federal juvenile justice grant funds under the JJDP Act. These funds were awarded to the Department of Health and Social Services and administered by the Division of Juvenile Justice. Subgrants in Alaska that are supported by these funds are listed on page 5 of this report.

Safe and Equitable Treatment for Youth

All states that receive juvenile justice grant funds under the JJDP Act must comply with the following four core requirements of the JJDP Act.

- **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders.** Youth who are charged with status offenses such as drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes, and violating curfew may not be held in locked detention and correctional facilities.
- **Sight and Sound Separation of Youth and Adult Offenders.** Youth who are held temporarily in adult jails or lock-ups may not have sight or sound contact with adult inmates.
- **Removal of Youth from Adult Jails and Lock-ups.** Youth who are accused of delinquent acts may not be held for processing in adult jails or lock-ups for more than 6 hours before their first court appearance and 6 hours after court.
- **Disproportionate Minority Contact.** States must assess and address disproportionate minority youth contacts with their juvenile justice systems.

Alaska's compliance with the above requirements is described in AJJAC's two previous annual reports, available online at http://health.hss.state.ak.us/djj/information/djj_publications.htm.

State Juvenile Justice Advisory Committees

All states that receive juvenile justice grant funds under the JJDP Act must appoint a volunteer citizen advisory committee to assist the state in monitoring its compliance with the JJDP Act requirements and allocating its JJDP Act grant funds.

The Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (AJJAC) serves as Alaska's state advisory committee. The AJJAC membership roster and contact information is provided on page 4 of this report. Additional information about AJJAC's responsibilities, activities and publications is available online at www.hss.state.ak.us/djj/AJJAC.

Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

Tom Begich		Anchorage	(907) 297-2578
Vicki Blankenship	Compliance Work Group Chair	Fairbanks	(907) 479-9511
Carol Brenckle	AJJAC Secretary, and Media Work Group Chair	Kenai	(907) 283-4343
Jeff Budd	Focus Groups Work Group Chair	Sitka	(907) 747-4821
Seth Church	Youth Member	Fairbanks	(907) 479-2868
Bart Colledge		Fairbanks	(907) 479-5993
Bernard Gatewood	Disproportionate Minority Contact Work Group Chair	Fairbanks	(907) 451-2194
William Hitchcock		Anchorage	(907) 264-0419
Michael Jeffery	FASD Work Group Chair	Barrow	(907) 852-4800
Jonathon Lack		Anchorage	(907) 278-8533
Sue Lovekin	AJJAC Vice Chair	Anchorage	(907) 248-9520
Ernie Mueller	Mental Health/Substance Abuse Work Group Chair, and Legislation Work Group Chair	Juneau	(907) 780-4083
Joe Pruitt		Barrow	(907) 852-7591
Christine Smith		Fairbanks	(907) 452-2000
Leona Sondie	Youth Member	Anchorage	(907) 258-1205
Tukta “Pepci” Souksi	Youth Member	Anchorage	(907) 333-6550
Barb Tyndall	AJJAC Chair	Fairbanks	(907) 488-1433
Tina Wilson		Anchorage	(907) 561-5633
Jaime Zellhuber	Youth Member	Juneau	(907) 790-9329

AJJAC meets in person or by teleconference approximately eight times per year. To request information about the next AJJAC meeting, or to submit written comments to AJJAC, contact:

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Division of Juvenile Justice
P.O. Box 110635, Juneau, AK 99811-0635
Telephone: (907) 465-3855
Fax: (907) 465-4390
TDD: (907) 465-3196

Alaska's Juvenile Justice Grants in FY04

Formula Non-Secure Attendant Care Shelter Grants

Fairbanks Native Association	Fairbanks	Non-secure shelter	27,000
Juneau Youth Services	Juneau	Non-secure shelter	15,000
Kenai Peninsula Community Care Center	Kenai Peninsula	Non-secure shelter	50,000
Kodiak Youth Services Center	Kodiak	Non-secure shelter	8,000
Residential Youth Care	Ketchikan	Non-secure shelter	23,000
Youth Advocates of Sitka	Sitka	Non-secure shelter	12,000
Valdez Counseling Center	Valdez	Non-secure shelter	6,000

Formula Indian Pass-Through Grants

Aleutian Pribilof Island Association	Aleutians	VPSO training	3,576
Bristol Bay Native Association	Bristol Bay	Tribal court juvenile program	5,082
Kawerak	Norton Sound	Cultural awareness project	6,275
Kodiak Area Native Association	Kodiak Island	Family spirit camp	3,509
Maniilaq	Kotzebue	Youth court training	5,525
Association of Village Council Presidents	Y-K Delta	Juvenile justice conference	12,102

Title V Delinquency Prevention Grants

City of Kenai	Kenai	Drug/alcohol/violence prevention	51,491
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Juvenile Accountability Grants

Anchorage Youth Court	Anchorage	Youth court	30,000
Bethel Group Home	Bethel	Youth court	10,000
City of Wasilla	Mat-Su Borough	Youth court	27,000
Delta Youth Court	Delta Junction	Youth court	5,000
North Star Youth Court	Fairbanks	Youth court	25,000
Juneau Youth Court	Juneau	Youth court	26,000
Kenai Peninsula Youth Court	Kenai Peninsula	Youth court	25,000
Southeast Regional Resource Center	Ketchikan	Youth court	26,000
Kodiak Teen Court	Kodiak	Youth court	15,000
Nome Community Center	Nome	Youth court	7,500
North Slope Borough	North Slope	Community panel	10,000
Traditional Council of Togiak	Togiak	Community panel	9,965
Valdez Youth Court	Valdez	Youth court	15,000
Wrangell Youth Court	Wrangell	Youth court	7,500
United Youth Courts of Alaska	Statewide	Youth court training	11,535

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Grants

Volunteers of America	Anchorage	Youth alcohol offender case mgmt	40,000
Bethel Group Home	Bethel	Youth alcohol offender case mgmt	10,000
Kenai Peninsula Youth Court	Kenai	Youth alcohol offender case mgmt	18,776
Kodiak Youth Services Center	Kodiak	Youth alcohol offender case mgmt	9,936
Nome Community Center	Nome	Youth alcohol offender database	9,999
Wrangell Police Department	Wrangell	Youth alcohol offender case mgmt	7,500
Mothers Against Drunk Driving	Southcentral	Youth-led prevention coalition	30,000
Mothers Against Drunk Driving	Southeast	Youth-led prevention coalition	31,000

Rural Alaska Juvenile Justice Grants

Eastern Aleutian Tribes	Aleutians	Community juvenile justice assoc	59,964
Native Village of Emmonak	Emmonak	Community juvenile justice assoc	60,000
Louden Tribal Council	Galena	Community juvenile justice assoc	35,000
Organized Village of Kake	Kake	Community juvenile justice assoc	50,000
Noorvik Native Community	Noorvik	Community juvenile justice assoc	55,000
Nunakauyak Traditional Council	Toksook Bay	Community juvenile justice assoc	51,944

Re-Entry Grants

Alaska Children's Services	Anchorage	Functional family therapy	124,412
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